

Serial No.: 10/684,417
Docket No.: 102-1001
Amendment after Final dated February 23, 2009
Reply to the Office Action of November 26, 2008

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A paper-discharging apparatus used with an image-forming device, the paper-discharging apparatus provided with paper-discharging rollers and idle rollers disposed in a paper-discharging port side of the image forming device, in which a sheet of paper is discharged through the paper-discharging rollers and the idle rollers, the paper-discharging apparatus comprising:

a supporting plate coupled at opposite ends thereof to a body of the image-forming device and installed at the paper-discharging port side of the image-forming device;

a supporting bracket coupled at a middle portion thereof to the supporting plate to rotatably support the idle rollers facing the paper-discharging rollers; and

a spacing adjustment unit disposed between the idle rollers to constantly maintain a contact pressure between the paper-discharging rollers and the idle rollers, wherein the spacing adjustment unit comprises:

an elastic member provided between the supporting plate and the supporting bracket so that opposite ends thereof abut with the supporting bracket and the supporting plate, respectively; and

a guide unit to suppress transverse and bending movements of the elastic member, wherein the guide unit comprises:

at least one clamping boss protruding from one of the supporting plate and the supporting bracket such that the clamping boss is located between the supporting plate and the supporting bracket when the supporting plate and the supporting bracket are assembled; and

a hole formed on the other one of the support plate and the support bracket, and the support plate and the support bracket are connected with each other by a clamping screw inserted into the hole to be engaged with the clamping boss.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The paper-discharging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the supporting plate and the supporting bracket are connected to be movable with respect to each other.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) The paper-discharging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic member comprises:

a coil spring installed to wrap around a circumferential surface of the clamping boss.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The paper-discharging apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the elastic member is formed longer than a projecting length of the clamping boss by a predetermined length, so that the elastic member is compressed as a spacing distance between the supporting plate and the supporting bracket is reduced when the supporting plate and the supporting bracket are assembled.

9. (Original) The paper-discharging apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the spacing adjustment unit further comprises:

another elastic member provided between the supporting plate and the supporting bracket; and

another clamping boss provided to correspond to the another elastic member.

10-23. (Canceled)

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24. (Previously Presented) A paper-discharging apparatus to discharge paper from an image forming device having paper-discharging rollers, comprising:

a supporting plate positioned at a paper-discharging port side of the image forming device and fixedly mounted at opposite ends thereof to a body of the image forming device;

a supporting bracket including idle rollers facing the paper-discharging rollers, the supporting bracket flexibly mounted at a middle portion thereof to the supporting plate to maintain a constant contact pressure between the idle rollers and respective paper-discharging rollers; and

a spacing adjustment unit disposed between the idle rollers to constantly maintain a contact pressure between the paper-discharging rollers and the idle rollers, wherein the spacing adjustment unit comprises:

an elastic member provided between the supporting plate and the supporting bracket so that opposite ends thereof abut with the supporting bracket and the supporting plate, respectively; and

a guide unit to suppress transverse and bending movements of the elastic member, wherein the guide unit comprises:

at least one clamping boss protruding from one of the supporting plate and the supporting bracket such that the clamping boss is located between the supporting plate and the supporting bracket when the supporting plate and the supporting bracket are assembled; and

a hole formed on the other one of the support plate and the support bracket, and the supporting plate and the supporting bracket are connected with each other by a clamping screw inserted into the hole to be engaged with the clamping boss.

25. (Original) The paper-discharging apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the supporting plate has a supporting plate axis disposed substantially parallel to at least one of a first center axis of the idle rollers of the supporting bracket and a second center axis of the discharging rollers, and the supporting plate axis of the supporting plate becomes disposed not to be parallel to the at least one of the first center axis and the second center axis according to a

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force exerted on one of the supporting plate and the supporting bracket while the first center axis and the second center axis are maintained substantially parallel to each other.

26-27. (Canceled)